

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 3-12, 15-16 and 25-32 will be pending in the application.

Status of Claims:

Claims 1 and 2 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, whereby Applicant reserves the right to prosecute those claims in a continuation reissue application, if desired. Please note that claims 3, 4 and 9 were amended in a previously-filed response.

'New' claims 25, 26, 29 and 29 have been amended to place each of those claims in independent form, to include the features of their respective base claim (there are no intervening claims). In a previously-filed response, 'new' claims 13, 14 and 17-24 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and their 'canceled' status is included in this response.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 3-12, 15, 16, 27, 28, 31 and 32 are allowed, as well as the indication that claims 25, 26, 29 and 30 would be allowed if amended to place those claims in independent form. By way of this amendment and reply, claims 25, 26, 29 and 30 have been amended to place those claims in independent form.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,327,013 to Moore et al. Due to the cancellation of claims 1 and 2, this rejection is now moot.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that this application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would advance prosecution of the application, however, he or she is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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